(घ) ग्रामीण विकास विभाग और उर्वरक विभाग में हिन्दी सप्ताह मनाया गया था। कृषि अनुसंधान और शिक्षा विभाग/ भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद् में हिन्दी दिवस मनाया गया। ग्रामीण विकास राज्य मंत्री द्वारा एक संदेश जारी किया गया।

Commercial exploitation of mineral resources in Maharashtra

@*472. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has recently been conducted by the Geological Survey of India for the commerical exploitation of the natural resources available in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the total percentage of the area of the State surveyed so far; and

(d) by when the remaining area is likely to be surveyed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Commercial exploitation of minerals does not come under the purview of the Geological Survey of India. GSI only carries out regional mineral assessment and preliminary exploration of minerals.

(c) 70.1 per cent area of Maharashtra has been surveyed so far by Geological mapping.

(d) The remaining area of the State is likely to be surveyed by the year 1992 subject to the availability of resources.

@Previously Starred Question 372 transferred from the 28th November, 1986.

Corruption in the Management of F.C.I.

*473. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a number of memorandum from the Fertilizer Workers Federation, CITU and a very senior officer of the Fertilizer Corporation of India alleging corruption and inefficiency on the part of the top management of the Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) if so, what are the details of these complaints; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) No such complaint against FCI has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fishing Trawlers

*474. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a large number of letters of intent to the prospective buyers of fishing trawlers in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether the entrepreneurs could not procure or implement the same letters of intent due to non-availability of funds in rupees or foreign exchange and more because of the closure of SDFC;

(c) the names of the parties who were issued such letters of intent;

(d) whether fish catches are rampant by foreign trawlers on all Indian seas; and

(e) if so, the details there of and action proposed to be taken to increase the Indian fishing trawlers and to help the Indians to increase fish catches?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) The Government have issued 102 Letters of Intent for import of 151 fishing vessels to prospective buyers from 1st January, 1985 to 30th November, 1986.

(b) Letters of Intent issued do not imply sanction of loan or guarantees by SDFC for the acquisition of the vassels permitted for import. Conversion of the Letters of Intent leading to import of fishing vessels involve fulfilling several conditions by the entrepreneurs. As such non-availalility of funds in rupees or foreign exchange or closure of SDFC are not the only reasons for the non-implementation of Letters of Intent.

(c) List attached. [*See Appendix* CXL, Annexure No. 116].

(d) and (e) The quantity of fish caught by the chartered foreign fishing vessels during the last two years are as follows:—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
1985	4540
1986 (till 6.11.86)	7370

Some of the important steps taken for augmenting the deep sea fishing fleet through a judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels are:—

(i) Clearance of import applications by an Inter-Ministerial Fishing Vessels Asquisition Committee.

(ii) Providing funds on soft terms for acquisition of indigenous and imported fishing vessels.

(iii) Providing 33 per cent subsidy on the cost of indigenously built deep sea fishing vessels.

For increase in marine and brackish water fish production the following are some of the programmes being implemented by the Government:—

(i) Development of brackish water areas in coastal states for prawn/fish farming and establishment of Prawn hatcheries.

(ii) Assistance to the States for deversifying fishing activities and motorization of indigenous craft through loans/subsidy and introduction of improved beach landing craft.

(iii) Assistance for construction of fishing harbours and of landing and berthing facilities at fishing centres.

(iv) Strengthening of Fishery Surveys.

Price-war between Public sector and Cooperative sector fertilizer units

*475. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a price-war is on between fertilizer manufacturers in violation of understanding between public sector and cooperative sector;

(b) whether it is fact that farmers prefer organic manure specially beyond certain limits and in arid zones than chemical fertilizers;

(c) whether Government propose to put a total ban on burning of organic manures for cooking etc; and

(d) whether it is a fact that organic manuring in several farms run by voluntary groups has proved to be highly successful and comparable to chemical fertilizers and in some cases of soils, even preferable?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Reports have been received to the effect that fertilizer manufacturers in the public, cooperative and private sectors have offered margins to dealerss in excess of the norms laid down by the Government in order to clear their stocks of fertilizers which have accumulated on account of reduced demand due to unfavourable weather conditions.